

**CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION**1516 NINTH STREET  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-5512

**NOTICE OF INSIGNIFICANT PROJECT CHANGE  
TO ALLOW EITHER SIMPLE CYCLE OR COGENERATION OPERATION  
OF UNITS 2 AND 3  
for the  
SYCAMORE COGENERATION PROJECT (84-AFC-6C)**

On July 6, 2006, the California Energy Commission received a petition from the Sycamore Cogeneration Company (SCC) to modify the Sycamore Cogeneration Project (SCP). The 300 megawatt SCP was certified in 1986 and commenced commercial operations in 1988. The power plant consists of four 75-megawatt natural gas-fired combustion turbines equipped with dry Low NOx combustors and four heat recovery steam generators capable of providing steam to the adjacent oilfield for use in enhanced oil recovery. The power plant is located approximately five miles north of the City of Bakersfield, and five miles east of State Route 99 in the Kern River oilfields in Kern County, California.

**DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS**

The Sycamore Cogeneration Company is seeking approval to operate combustion turbine Units 2 and 3 in either simple cycle mode (i.e., without the cogeneration of steam) or in the current cogeneration configuration. This request is due to (1) a decline in steam demand from the adjacent oilfield, and (2) the need for flexibility to respond to the current electricity market. No additional physical construction will be necessary to switch between simple-cycle and cogeneration operations. In December of 2004, the Energy Commission approved a petition filed by the Sycamore Cogeneration Company to allow combustion turbine Units 1 and 4 to operate in either simple cycle or cogeneration mode, and the project's air quality Conditions of Certification were modified at that time to reflect the flexible operating characteristics. That modification will allow Units 2 and 3 to also operate in either simple cycle or cogeneration mode. SCC anticipates that, at any given time, only two of the four units will continue to operate in cogeneration mode.

**ENERGY COMMISSION STAFF REVIEW AND DETERMINATION**

Pursuant to section 1769(a)(2), Title 20, California Code of Regulations, Energy Commission approval of the project modification is not required if Energy Commission staff determines that:

- There is no possibility that the modification may have a significant effect on the environment, and
- The modification will not result in a change to or deletion of a condition of certification, or make changes that would cause the project not to comply with applicable laws, ordinances, regulations, or standards (LORS).

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Energy Commission staff have determined that the proposed modification meets this criteria because:

- The modification will not have any significant effect on the environment as there will be no changes in the permitted air emissions,
- Existing conditions of certification are sufficient to cover the proposed modification without changes to, or deletions of, any conditions of certification; and
- The project as modified will maintain full compliance with applicable LORS.

We note that the project must continue to meet the performance standards for cogeneration projects (Public Resources Code Section 25134) and will be operated in cogeneration mode for at least the minimum time necessary to do so.

Any person may file a written objection to staff's determination within 14 days of service of this notice on the grounds that the project modification does not meet the criteria set forth in Section 1769(a)(2). All objections must be in writing and must be sent either by U.S. mail, e-mail, or other document delivery service to Christopher Meyer, Compliance Project Manager, at the address shown below:

California Energy Commission  
1516 9<sup>th</sup> Street, MS 2000  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Comments may be submitted by fax to (916) 654-3882, or by e-mail at [cmeyer@energy.state.ca.us](mailto:cmeyer@energy.state.ca.us). If no substantive objection is received in writing by 5:00 p.m. on July 26, 2006, the requested project modifications will be deemed approved, and a description of the change will be placed in the project file.

If you have questions about this notice, please contact Christopher Meyer at (916) 653-1639, or by fax or e-mail using the above information.

Date: 7/11/06

  
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ROGER E. JOHNSON, Manager  
Siting and Compliance Office  
Systems Assessment & Facilities Siting Division

Mail List # 796